to enable the Government to increase it by notification, if necessary, to Rs. 2000 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the Export Import Bank of India was set up in the year 1982. This bank was set up for financing, providing facilities and for promoting Indian foreign trade. My request is this the hon'ble Minister of finance want that the amount of this bill could be upto Rs. five thousand millions. Through such a notification, the Union Government would be able to increase this capital upto Rs. five thousand millions. Now he has brought the proposal for increasing this amount from Rs. five thousand millions to Rs. twenty thousand millions. He wants to make that provision in it. I want to say that it is a different thing that he intends to increase the amount. But what is the condition of all these banks, how the Export-Import Bank is functioning whether or not there is any role of the Reserve Bank in this regard? Hon'ble Minister should think over it. The total resources in the bank were 36.07 million Rupees as on March 31, 1995. There is 4.40 Million rupees as paid up capital of the Government of India and the reserved fund of Rs. 3.12 million accumulated during the 13 years. These banks are working industry-wise and regionwise. They are giving assistance for setting up E.O.U.'s and providing assistance, industry-wise. Alongwith if they are also providing assistance, State-wise. I would like to put before you the figures regarding the assistance provided by this bank to various states from time to time.

17.25 hrs.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*)

This bank has made a funds available to many states including Rajasthan. It provided Rs. 194 crores and Rs. 472 crores to Karnataka during the years 1993-94, and 1995-96 respectively and if we see on Cumulative basis an amount of Rs. 940 crore was given upto March, 1995. Similarly, Maharashtra was provided Rs. 214 crore earlier and Rs. 212 crores during the year 1994-95 and if we see on cummulative basis Rs. 259.5 Crores was provided. Similarly, Rajasthan was provided Rs. 31.5 crores rupees and Cumulative amount was Rs. 32.7 Crores. Similarly, Tamilnadu was provided 40 crore rupees earlier and 86.9 crores rupees in the year 1984-85 and 260.2 crore rupees on cummulative basis. Uttar Pradesh was provided 19.1 crores rupees and Rs. 38.1 crores on cummulative basis.

In this way our banks have provided funds to various States, but during the process their short comings have come to surface which have done a considerable damage to the country. It has been proved that Reserve Bank of India has no control on these banks due to which the condition of the country has been worsening. Due to lack of control of the Reserve Bank over these banks, many scams have occurred. It will take a long time if I mention all of them because 20-25 banking scams have come to light. I want that the Minister of Finance should look into the banking system keeping in view these scams.

The policy of the present Government is totally against the indigenous. We want to increase the production of indigenous goods but you want to bring the foreign goods here. When the foreign goods would come in the country, they may be cheaper, but our indigenous goods would not be able to compete with them. Therefore, I have requested the Government to review the policy and change it. The dream of Gandhiji to promote the indigenous things has not been realised. We are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our independence in August this year, but on the other hand the indigenous companies are incrring losses, the condition of many of our Public Undertakings is worse. I would like to request the Minister that whereas earlier they had given 85 percent concession on coal, gradually you have reduced it to 10 per cent but today there is no buyer of coal in India. The condition of coal sector has become worse. Similarly the condition of newsprint is also very bad and after the entry of imported newsprint its prices have been constently increasing. In my opinion, the Minister should think over it periously. Similarly, the condition of iron alongwith many other items is also bad.

Participating in the discussion on sick textile mills, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan and Shri Jagatveer Singh Drona had mentioned about the condition of textile mills in their respective constituencies. The workers have become unemployed due to the closure of textile mills all our India they may be the textile mills of Indore or Kanpur. The workers have been facing starvation. They are not getting salaries. The Minister may console us here with sweet words but it is a fact that all the workers of these mills have been suffering today. I request the Minister to make provision in this bill keeping the whole of the situation in view. Besides, he should also consider over the plight of the employees of the Export-Import bank of India. He should review the functioning of the Export-Import Bank.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Girdhari Lai Bhargava, please wait for a minute. At 5.30 p.m. we will have to take up Half-an-Hour discussion. So, you can continue your speech tomorrow.

17.30 hrs.

[English]

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION INTERNATIONAL TOURSIT PLACES IN THE COUNTRY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up item no. 19- Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat to raise a discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Tourism on 6.3.97 to Starred Question No. 181 regarding

[Mr. Chairman]

International Tourist Places in the country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. Who is going to reply to this discussion?. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Srikanta Jena is sitting there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: I did not see him. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Shri Jena, you please stand up and show your face to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KAMPUR): Sir, Shri Srikanta Jena should come back to his seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order in that....

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, there is a point of order but I am not pressing it too much. At least the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs must know that he should occupy his seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, I think, you know the rules. You will make a short statement to begin with. There are four Members whose names have been balloted. They will ask one question each. Ultimately the hon. Minister will answer. I think, I shall get your cooperation.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): Sir, I am myself not doing well. I will take only five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please have some water and then speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I would like to submit that those four Members who have to ask one question each can ask their questions and by that time Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat will settle down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR.CHAIRMAN: The Rule does not permit that. Let us wait for a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Sir, I am quoting the reply given by the hon. Minister to the supplementary questions asked by Shri Datta Meghe with regard to the development of tourist centres of international level:

[English]

"Agra is one of our most important tourist destinations and it is the World Heritage Centre. The number of foreign toursits visiting Agra is the highest in the country as compared to other tourist destinations.

Regarding the Agra-Taj Mahal project, I would like to say that a project report was submitted a few years back. The State Government and the Central Ministries connected with the Agra Regional Development are doing some work, but it has so far not been to our satisfaction. We can do a lot many things."

[Translation]

I would like to submit that after this. I do not-feel the need to plead this case that out of the heritages of the world, three are situated in Agra. These are, Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. Besides, two others—Sikandra and Ittmaludaulla are in pipeline. There are Ellora and Elephanta, also in the world heritage project. I am happy to learn from the hon. Minister that under O.E.C.F., a project for Ajanta-Ellora caves has been conceived at a cost of 83 crore 11 lakh rupees and the work on it has been going on speedily. I would like to congratulate him that if not the Taj Mahal, he is bothered about other heritages ....*(Interruptions)*. Hon. Minister Sir, Drona Ji is rightly saying that you should pay a visit to Agra and see the Taj Mahal. Perhaps, if you see the Taj, Fatehpur Sikri and Agra Fort you may show favour to them also.

I would like to submit that as far as tourism is concerned, there are five sectors of international tourism—commercial tourism, religious tourism, cultural tourism, historical tourism and social tourism. The area of Agra is called a combined circuit of Agra-Mathura which is very important from all the five angles. It has a mixed culture. Besides Taj Mahal, the Agra city which was known as Agarban or Agrohar set up by Maharaja Agarsen has its special cultural identity. The cult of Mahabharata, Krishna, Mughals of ancient period, and that of Radhaswami, Shaiva and Vaishnava in the modern history is very much prevalent there. From the commercial point, view too, leather products are produced in huge quantity there, and products worth Rs. 600 to Rs. 800 crore are exported.

Chidambram Sahib did not show any favour. Fortunately he was shifted to other Ministry, otherwise in the name of tourism, people would not have got the benefit for the deemed export under which come the peices of art which are being sold there. When the arts of the artisans are sold in the name of deemed export, the people there are not given the benefit of it.

I would conclude after making 3-4 points. I would like to submit that as per the need of tourism, a foreign tourist does not need western food there. He may not need the same food which he eats in his own country and may not adopt the same life-style of which he is habitual in his own country but when he visits another country, he would like to eat the local food, to adopt to the local life style and to see the wild life, birds, crops and the fascinating scenery. We can attract tourists by showing all this and can do more business. There is a need of such types of facilities in Agra and even in the entire country.

A committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Director General. He said that the tourist place should be neat and clean and free from pollution and the trained

and soft spoken staff should be there to help them in viewing and enjoyment. He must feel that the item of art which he has purchased has the same value which he has spent on purchasing it from the concerned shopkeeper or the artisan. The co-operation of the local people is must for it. Everything from master plan t. . .notion of tourism tra.e is required to attract tourists. There is also a need of co-ordination between the Union and the State Governments. I would like to congratulate the hon. Tournism Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Kalraj Mishra also. Once I had mentioned that he is quite alert and he has prepared an ambititious scheme for Agra-Mathura. But there is no co-ordination between the Union and the State Governments. He has created five circuits among which are Bodh circuit and Agra-Mathura circuit. But the circuits made by the Union Government are Agra, Gawalior, Jhansi, Orchha and Khajuraho, while everyone knows that Agra, Jaipur and Delhi is called the golden triangle. It has been neglected by the Government and the state Government is also doing so because it cannot do encroachment in Jaipur.

The Government have created a National cultural fund.

If I am not wrong, purhaps Bommai Sahib had made an announcement. But there is a need to create a national cultural fund at a large scale, only then the work on it can be undertaken. Rs. 2770 crore were earned by Uttar Pradesh alone from domestic and foreign tourists in 1993, which is expected to touch Rs. 6894 crore by 2000 A.D. About 31,60,000 tourists are expected to visit Uttar Pradesh by the year 2000 A.D. We should include cultural component in tourism also.

Further, I would like to submit that there are some short comings in international tourist places, efforts should be made to remove them. Kovlam beach is a very attractive place but it is a dirty place also. The hon. Minister might be remembering that the surrounding of the Taj Mahal is filthy. He had attended the programme of Yanni and he had to put his handkerchief on his nose. All the eminent personalities had handkerchieves on their noses. I would like to draw your attention as well as that of the Union Government towards the filth around the Taj Mahal, the humidity in the Ellora Caves and the increasing activity of smuggling of narcotics in Pushkar.

The tourist wants that the immigeration staff treat him properly. The taxi drivers, behaviour should be good. My submission is that there should be no cheating and misbehaviour during the visit, then ony tourism would flourish.

I would like to mention the Uttar Pradesh Government once more. They have formed an Agra Heritage fund and announcement has been made to allocate Rs. 10 crore to it. It is also told that the Uttar Pradesh Government wants to give Rs. 10 crore more which is in the pipe line but giving Rs. 10-10 crore at intervals would not serve the purpose. That I know. It can only reflect their sentiments. Unless the roads are constructed for transporting the tourists there, would not serve any purpose.

I would like to emphasise that Agra is being neglected. The Union Government should ensure uninterrupted power supply though N.T.P.C Despite the huge power project involiving the cost of Rs. 172 crores, adequate power supply is not being made available to Agra causing inconvenience to the tourists. No attention has been paid to the drinking water, communication facilities, roads in Agra. However, I would appreciate the tourism minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kalraj Mishra who has announced the construction of roads in Agra with the cost of Rs. 75 crores. He is also making some earnest efforts in this direction. Despite all these efforts, a lot more needs to be done. On one hand, the smoke emanating from cigarettes blackens the Taj and on the other the autorickshaws also cause inconvenience to the tourists. Therefore, Metro Railway service need to be introduced in Agra.

The Public Accounts Committee, in its earlier report laid stress on this point but the Government is yet to respond to it. The light and sound programme should be held at Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri.

There are 44 airports in Nepal for the development and promotion of tourism there. But the Government of India is not able to construct an International Airport in Agra which is in international tourism centre. The Civil domestic airport of Agra does not have adequate facilities. We have requested Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji to direct the army soldiers deployed there to behave properly and not to harass the tourists coming in or going out from there. But nothing has happened in this regard. After the air journey, one has to undergo the humiliation because the Kheria airport is situated in military area. The stoppage of all the major trains should be given at Agra because the tourists have to come to Delhi first and then go back to Agra. All Delhi bound trains coming from eastern India should be stopped at Toundla.

I also earnestly request you to provide all the metro facilities to Agra from the tourism angle along with four Metrocities Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. New trains should be introduced and buses should also be available for Agra. New shatabdi train should be introduced from Agra to Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Jaipur. A Golden Triangle Express should also be introduced. Shri Ashok Pahwa the Director General of Tourism department had recommended and constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the divisional commissioner, to oepn the Tajmahal two days before and after the full moon day (Poornima) under strict police arrangements. The people of tourism department told that seeing the Taj on the full moon day has been discontinued which has resulted in the steep decrease in the occupancy in hotel from 75 percent to 38 percent. People come from Delhi to Agra in the Chartered buses and go back in the same buses as their purpose is not served. Therefore, a masterplan needs to be chalked out and its expenses should be borne by the Government. A visitor centre should also be set up. Prerecorded information about the historical buildings and tourist places should be made available. The museum and art gallery should be setup on the basis of archaeological

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

background of Agra. The Rambagh should be developed on the line of the Vrindavan garden. Cultural programmes should be organised there. The work regarding light and sound programme in the Shilpgram should be completed at the earliest. All these instructions were given by him but nothing happend.

The shoorsarovar, Shorepure, Bateshwar, Chambal ghadiyal project near Agra ad Patna bird sanctury project near Jalesar should be expedited. The Director General of tourism department also told that the religious tourism should be given priority in order to promote tourism. Agra attracts a large number of tourists every year. Dayalbag of Radhaswamy faith the Lord Shiva temple and the area passing from Roonakata to Sikandra is a mythological area. Likewise, in the West the Yamuna river flows in the opposite direction and these are other natural scenes worth seeing.

The introduction of the Goa-Agra-Aurangabad air flight will facilitate tne tourists visiting Goa to come to Agra and to Aurangabad to see the Ajanta Allora Caves. I am saying it from a foreign tourists point of view. A suspension bridge should be constructed near Mehtabag it was constructed on the occasion of Yanni's concert which has now been dismantled. That is why the people are not able to see the Taj from the other angle.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman. Sir, other Members are also to ask questions on this.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGVAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I am just concluding. This should be called to tourism zone. The Taj Mahal and other historical buildings should be closed down on Friday and not on Monday. Arrangement of nature walk should be made in the Shahajahan Park. People should be allowed to view Taj from the Fort point on the holidays. The management of religious places near the Taj should be improved. The rickshaws should be allowed from the Parking place to Taj. There is no night tourism train to come to Agra from Delhi which should be introduced. A.C. two tier coaches should be attached to the Intercity Express which runs between Delhi and Agra in the morning to enable the tourist to come to Agra. You earn rupees ten thousand crores in foreign exchange. If 50 percent of total tourists come to Agra, they deserve to be provided with special facilities.

Therefore, I earnestly request you to declare Agra as tourist capital and link it with Buddhist circuit. It should be declared as an international tourist city and centre. All the facilties required there, should be made available. With the declaration of tourist city, Agra should be declared tourist capital on the line of Mumbai as Commercial Capital and the Agra-Mathura Taj trapaziam area should be developed into a tourism zone. The Ghana bird sanctury of Bharatpur is also connected with its. Some area of Gwalior is also connected with it. This circuit should be developed. Bundelkhand area near Gwalior has also got immense potential. I have made all these suggestions keeping in view the domestic and foreign tourists and I do hope that the hon'ble Minister would certainly respond to them.

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI-NORTH): Mr. Chairman, the question mainly relates to setting up of an international tourism centre. The Minister while replying to this question, told that the Government does not have any such proposal with them therefore, no decision on setting up the international tourism centre has been taken so far. This was reply to the main question.

I have to ask only one question to the hon. Minister. Our country has vast potential for the development of tourism. We have an ancient heritage and there are many places which can be visited by the foreign tourists. I want to say that we can tell the foreign tourists in thier countries itself about the places they can visit in ten days. Similarly, the number of places they can visit in a span of 15 days and 20 days, we should make such type of arrangement so that we can give them advance information about the places they could visit. Otherwise the position will be like this that when they visit India, they will have to get reservation for the places they want to visit. This may result in wastage of time. So, we should have a four package for foreign tourists which should include the tourist spots which a foreign tourist would like to visit. We should furnish this information in advance, preferrably in their country itself. If we do so, then we can really promote tourism here in India. We will earn foreign exchange thereby, tourists places should be developed and this will create self employment opportunities such as more people will be engaged in the profession of taxi, auto-rickshaw and hotles etc. and these activities will further can expand. I want to know from the Government, what objection does the Government have in doing so?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (DEOGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion emanates from the reply give to the starred question number 181 during this session itself, which was answered on 6th of March. I need not repeat the point already raised or the reference given on the ground. The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that there is no concept or even no proposal of declaring or upgrading certain tourist centres of our country as international tourist centres.

Sir, India, as you know, is an abode of natural beauty. Many places outside India, in different countries, in Europe, America or elsewhere find place in the international tourist maps. A very few places in India are shown as tourist places in such maps. Naturally, Jammu and Kashmir is shown there. The Himalayas are also shown because of mountaineering. Many tourists come to India for undertaking mountaineering.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, you know the limitation.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Just a second. I am encouraged by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat and also by the encouragement you have given to him.

This encourages me also. I quite reasonably and hopefully deserve such encouragement from you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But there are certain constraints and we have to work within those constraints. You are a very senior and experienced Member. You must go by the rules to some extent.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Let us come to the job.

The Himalayas and Jammu and Kashmir figure there. Agra figures there for Taj Mahal, Mahrashtra for Ajanta and Ellora caves and so on.

Now, I come to Orissa. It is the home State of the Minister. He knows it very well, even better than I.

Sir, there is a golden triangle connecting Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri. Puri does have the distinction of possessing the most beautiful, attractive and one of the longest beaches in the world. Then, there are rock edifices in and around Bhubaneswar. There are ornamental and artistic temples in Orissa. There are places like Dhauli, Nandankanan, Pathanpot, Chilka, etc., in Orissa where a lot of tourists come every year. The Sun Temple at Konark is known as the Black Pagoda of Asia and architecture there is wonderful. There is no God inside that temple, but because of architectural beauty and different type of appeal of the sculptures, a lot of tourists are attracted to this palce. But these places in Orissa are neglected. The foreign tourists are coming only because of the beauty of these places.

Then, tourism is a good and dependable source of earning foreign exchange to our country. I need not explain as to how important foreign exchange is to our economy. I will not go into it because of time constraint. But unless good facilities are created in these places, domestic and international tourists will not be attracted. The life style of international tourists are different from the life style of our country. so, there must be good hotels and other arrangements in places like Konark and Puri. Puri has a beautiful beach. But if there is no beautification in the surrounding area and if there are no good hotels with swimming pool and other facilities, the foreign tourists will not be attracted.

Then, Chilka lake is another attraction in Orissa. Chilka lake is the largest brackish water lake in Asia and millions of birds do migrate there during the winter season every year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Panigrahi, the time is very limited. Please come to the question.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, I am coming to the question.

Sir, infrastructural facilities like good hotels, international airports etc. are very much essential to promote tourism in our country. There is the famous Hirakud dam in Orissa. The construction work of the international airport in Orissa has to be expedited. What does the Government of India propose to do regarding development of infrastructural facilities like hotels and beautification of these places in Orissa?

In the international tourist maps, all these places are not shown. Judging by the sizeable number of foreign toursits who are coming to India and also considering the importance of certain places in our country, what is the difficulty of the Government in showing those places in the international tourist maps?

Sir, I know that there is constraint of funds. But some important tourist places have to be earmarked for development. We have both domestic as well as international airports in our country. Recently, there was a merger of International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority. So, considering the importance of the tourist places in our country and also considering the attraction of foreign toursits to our country, what is the difficulty that the Government is confronting in upgrading certain highly important tourist places like Chilka lake, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Puri etc. as international tourist centres and provide enough facilities there?

18.00 hrs.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, the hon. Minister need not feel shy in developing tourism in his own State. We all will support him.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, kindly extend the time till the debate is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the time should be extended till the Minister's reply is completed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rudy, please be brief.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): Sir, I have always been very brief.

[Translation]

Rawat Saheb has expressed his views on many points. I would like to ask some questions. Sir, we always talk of resource crunch in every area today, be it the area of development, rural area etc. But there is an area where the revenue of this country could increase manifold and that is the area of tourism.

If you have a look at India's map, you will see sea on the one side, hills on the other and forests and archaeological sites on another side. We come to know about the potentiality of tourism development here after seeing the map of India. There is strong potential of tourism development in India. But no Government could direct its attention towards this during the last 50 years. The extent of money which we will spent on the tourism development. We can earn much more revenue than the amount which we would spend on development of tourism.

Rawat Saheb had talked about Agra but 9 want to draw your attention towards Bihar. Half an hour discussion is very short on this issue but within this short time, I will put forward some points in this regard. We know that Vaishali in Bihar is an ancient republic. Two Ministers are sitting behind the hon. Minister, who had been earlier Ministers for tourism.

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: We represent here Vaishali itself.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, everybody knows today about the historic importance of the ancient Lichavi Republic. We, today, talk about Parliamentary Forum of England, talk about 50 years but there is an ancient Republic in India which is hundreds of years old, people have a little knowledge about it. It is Lord Buddha's place of penance where people from China and Japan try to visit today. The Bihar Government does not have the capability of tourism development there nor does it have the capability to earn more revenue from tourism development. Tourists visit from Japan and China, the bus service is available for them from Delhi upto Patna Airport which takes them from Patna to Bodh Gaya and then those buses return to Delhi without any passengers because these passengers return from there by aeroplanes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to remind you again, please be brief.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I would like to put forward some questions after saying something on the issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing tourism in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is such a subject on which I cannot help but to speak. The Japan Government had also given commitment to provide funds for the Buddhist circuit. The possibilities of its development are very strong by linking Uttar Pradesh with Bihar. I want to kow froim the hon. Minister that the State Government has had discussions many times with the Union Governnient regarding construction of an international airport at Gaya. Today, tourists arrive at Delhi or Calcutta. If you want to develop from the tourism viewpoint, I would put up a question before you. I would like to have a categorical answer regarding costruction of an international airport at Gaya for those tourists who want to directly land there in their own plane or in Government's plane. Steps should also be taken for the development of Vaishali. I represent the Chappra parliamentary constituency. The biggest animal fair of Asia is organised at Sonepur. I had asked a Starred question in this regard. It was admitted in reply to that question that the biggest animal fair is organised there. You had accorded sanction to it as a tourist centre accepting it as national animal fair. You had also hinted to provide some grants for it. There is strong potential of tourism development all over in India. I want to add only three more questions in regard to mobilise resources, augment Country's revenue and earnings and to take country forward on the path of progress. I want clarification from the hon. Minister regarding setting up of an international airport of Gaya, the development of the Buddhist circuit and promotion of animal fair which is organised at Sonepur. If the Government accept this fact that the tourism development has not taken place up to the expected level in the last 50 years. If the Government want to do everything by their own hands. Is there any subject which the Government want to part with? If it is beyond Government's reach, the Government should play the role of a monitoring agency. The task of tourism development could be assigned to private sector. I would like to have an answer on these four-five points which are related to promotion of tourism in the country.

I had written a letter to the hon. Minister about Sitamarhi...*(Interruptions)* why the Government avoid to assign the task of tourism development to the private sector? Giving emphasis on these points, I conclude my speech...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name has not been balloted. You might have given your name for the ballot, but it does not indicate your name.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really thankful to hon. Member, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat and to the other hon. Members. This debate has really given me an opportunity to explain to the august House about the tourism sector in spite of the particular question that has been raised by hon. Members.

Unfortunately, till now this sector has not been given the kind of importance that was supposed to be given. This is the only sector which is bringing the highest foreign exchange to our country. If you look at the Budget of Tourism Ministry and the total foreign exchange that we get, you will find the total foreign exchange in 1996-97 is three billion dollars and the total arrivals of foreign tourists is 2.3 million. If you ask me, as the Minister in charge of Tourism in the Government of India, I will say that I am not at all happy with this figure.

China is getting 52 million tourists.

Indonesia is getting nearly more than five million tourists.

Bali Islands in Indonesia is getting nearly 3.5 million tourists.

But our figure is only 2.3 million. When this question was raised on what are the destinations for the foreign tourists in India, I said India in totality is the destination for foreign tourists and they want to come and spend time in India and in India all kinds of tourists can be accom-

modated, but the kind of infrastructure needed is not available and that is the unfortunate part of the total scenario that now exists in the tourism sector itself.

I do not say that nothing has been done in the past or we are not doing anything at all. But I am talking of the way we are doing, the speed at which we are moving. I think the neighbouring countries and the smaller countries are attracting more number of foreign tourists and getting more foreign exchange compared to India which is such a vast country having such a vast potential.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Now, Nepal is having casinos.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, it is not only a question of casinos. I had gone to China in 1981. I saw the Chinese development, their attitude towards the tourism sector and the awareness among the people about the tourism sector. They have maintained everything. If you go to a street, you can find that even a tree is maintained in such a fashion that it is an attraction for the tourists. If you go to a restaurant, you can find that they have maintained the restaurant in such a fashion that-that is also a point of attraction for the tourists. If you go to any lake, yo can find the beauty of it. The point is that the kind of expenditure is not much. But the attitude towards beautification and the approach towards tourists matter much. Unfortunately, it happens in our country that if a foreign tourists goes to different parts of the country, the attitude of our people is just to exploit the foreign tourist. If this attitude is there, then the tourists will never come, rather the number of foreign tourists will decrease and it will never increase. What I mean to say is that the awareness about tourism should be there. When one foreign tourist comes to our country, how much foreign exchange are we getting? That aspect also needs to be highlighted so that people in general can be aware of it. They can know what is actually the potential in the tourism sector. We must treat the foreign tourists properly so that more number of tourists can come.

As you have rightly said about the Buddhist circuits, more and more people want to come to the Buddhist circuits, particularly from China, Japan and other Asian countries. Wherever they want to come, the infrastructure has not been properly built. The kind of hotel that is required is not available. The kind of transport that is required is not available.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The law and order problem is there.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This is an inbuilt problem that I cannot help.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA). Mr. Minister, Sir, Agra and Mathura have also these circuits. There is a very big Buddhist circuit at Agra and there is a museum in Mathura in which there are relics of the Lord Buddha.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not enter into that region, please.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I fully agree with you. I will just draw your attention to the importance of this sector itself. I just want to mention about the employment potential that has been created in our country. I want to mention about the recent growth that has taken place. The picture is that today in India 8.5 million people are directly employed in the tourism sector constituting 2.4 per cent of the total labour force. In addition, about 11.5 million people are indirectly employed due to tourism development. It is estimated that as per the 1985-86 price level of the rupees invested, for every ten lakh, 12.6 jobs are created in the manufacturing sector; 44.7 jobs are created in the agricultural sector and 47.5 jobs are created in the tourism sector. This is the calculation that they have made. Whatever investment that is being made, the maximum benefit goes towards employment. It takes care of the unemployment problem also. But the point is that the kind of investment that is required is not available. Today, hotel rooms are not available. It is estimated that 63,000 additional hotel rooms would be immediately required even for accommodating three million tourists. We are getting 2.3 million tourists. If you add another 70,000 more, then you required at least 63,000 rooms extra. What is the target as per the 1992 Action Plan?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Minister, whatever you are saying, it means you are well aware of the situation. We have got all this information adequately from the library. You please tell us, what you are doing in this regard. You are raising queries after queries.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I am just coming to that, Rudy Ji, the point is I am just highlighting the problems. The requirement of this sector is much. As it is, we require more number of rooms. But the land is not available. Suppose in the metropolis we need more land. But the land is not available. Even if it is available, the cost of the land is much more.

It is particularly so in the State Governments. What is the Government of India's role in this? The Ministry of Tourism's role is that of a catalyst. The real development takes place at the State leval. They identify the project, they go for intensive campaign, they give packages, they attract the investors and in that process, the Government of India assists from the Budget.

We have 18 foreign tourist offices in different parts of the world. We publicise the packages and destinations through those foreign offices. We give publicity material to the foreign tourists that gives details about the centres of tourist attractions, where they should go, the facilities available there and so on. But that is not sufficient.

Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has rightly mentioned about the immigration and visa problems. Recently, the Minister of Tourism of Indonesia has told me that 46

[Shri Srikanta Jena]

countries have signed the bilateral agreement and anybody from those 46 countries can come to Indonesia. They can get the visa at the airport itself. They need not apply through their embassies to get a visa for two months. I have written letters to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs about this kind of an arrangement where we have a bilateral agreement so that anybody who wants to come to India can do so. Even the NRIs are also facing a problem to get the visa at the airport. We have taken steps about immigration also. We have written to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Home Affairs mentioning that tourists should be treated properly at the airport as also at the immigration level. We have received complaints that they are not being treated properly at the immigration levels. We are taking up this issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Aviation. But the point is of investment. In this case, the private sector has a great role to play not only in the hotel industry but also in the connected industries which will develop the tourism sector. What is the number of international airports in Indonesia? They have got 12 international airports in Indonesia whereas we in India have six international airports. You do not have the accessibility when people are interested to take chartered plane and come to their destinations. But that kind of facilities are not available in places like Gaya. If Gaya-Nepal route is opened, then the inflow of tourists from Nepal will be there to Patna and Gaya. We are takiing this also with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Defence to see as to how it can be utilised to increase the inflow of tourists and for making available other facilities.

This year, we have opened it for Agra and chartered flights can come to Agra. Now chartered flights can come to Agra twice in a week.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: My request is that a regular flights should be operated for Agra. Golden Triangle train should be operated between Goa, Aurangabad and Agra. Shri Paswan is sitting here in this House. Domestic flights should also he operated for Agra. Only one domestic flight is operated in Agra and there is no other flight..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA: What I mean to say is, first point is about infrastructure for that. We require funds at the state Government level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a Half-an-Hour Question. It is not a general debate.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I am completing it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: My question was regardng setting up of an International Airport at Gaya, Buddhist Circuit proposal, Sonpur cattle fair proposal and Vaishali proposal.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Shri Rudy, I give a direct reply to your question. We have provided three lakh rupees for Sonpur fair during the current year.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: You had provided this amount during the last year.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It was during 1996-97... *(Interruptions)* You please listen to me. An assistance of Rs. 250 crores has been provided for Buddhist Circuit from there but the work has not been done in a desired way. Now, you are talking about Bihar Government, then who will do...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGVAN SHANKAR RAWAT: The Buddhist Circuit has started from Agra itself.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You please listen to me. This loan is for that state only... *(Interruptions)* What shall we do. We are taking loan from abroad for increasing its infrastructure ...*(Interruptions)*

You please listen to me first. After that, if it is necessary, we will have discussion..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rudy, let the Minister reply first.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I will take up the matter regarding the International Airport at Gaya with the Ministry of Civil Aviation because that is not connected with the Ministry of Tourism.

So far as the Buddhist circuit is concerned, I would request him that he should also take an initiative, not politically but as a tourist promoter, and see that the money that is available for Buddhist Circuit in Bihar is spent in time so that more Chinese and Japanese tourists come to his state. That is my only request to Shri Rudy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Please tell something also regarding Vaishali. The Railway Minister and the leader of the House is sitting by your side. You please tell what is being done for Vaishali?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Since you have also dragged me into this discussion, let me tell you that for the first time in the history of the country, a survey is being conducted to construct railway line upto Buddhist Circuit. You know that there was 113 years old demand for construction of railway line from Hajipur to Sugauli via Vaishali. We have inaughated the survey work and as soon as we receive the survey report, the further action will be taken.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Actually, the discussion is not being held on railway budget but since you are the leader of the House, you please atleast make arrangement for stoppage of all trains in Agra.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You had met me on this issue. We have made arrangements for stoppage of such trains at Agra, whose stoppage is possible. In addition to this, we would make arrangements for stoppage of other trains also, if it is possible for us. We know that Agra is a famous city not only from my point of view but every point of view. Besides Tajmahal, The Ninth Wonder of the World and the Buddhist circuit is located there. Which city can be more important than this city having so many features.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I request you to make an announcement in this House for stoppage of all those trains of Agra which pass through Tundla and Agra. Besides, I would also like to request the Minister of Tourism to make announcement in this House that he would help in securing funds from the Planning Commission and the Union Government for tourism development in Agra.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, regarding Agra, we have had a lengthy discussion. For Agra, Taj Mahal and Inter Regions Development, a lot of steps had been taken in the past. I do not want to go into all these details, a long list is there. But what I will say is that we cannot think of India's Tourism development without having Taj Mahel at the central point I fully accept that position without Taj Mahal, India's tourism Sector cannot emerge. For that, whatever is required from my side and from the Government of India, that will be provided. Not only that, even for ecological Survey, I will talk to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. So, whatever is to be done in regard to Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri, that will be well taken care of.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would like to urge the Minister of Tourism to form a committee comprising of the Member of Parliament from Agra. The Minister of Tourism of Uttar Pradesh and himself and to take up further action in regard to the entire programme. He should give that much assurance in this House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The development of tourism can play on emportant role in the development of the country, so the tourism department should work and find a way out in this regard. The Minister of Tourism should constitute a committee comprising of those hon. Members who give suggestions and who want to participate in the discussions regarding development of Tourism and particularly the Minister of Railways should constitute a special committee for Tourism development through railways so that the places having importance from tourism point of view throughout the country could be connected with trains at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Today the Minister should make announcement for holding meeting in regard to Agra. The Minister should give this much of assurance in this House.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Yes, Sir, for Agra and Buddhist Circuit, I will call for another round of meeting ...*(Interruptions)*... We are giving emphasis not only on Taj Mahal and other parts of the country, we are also giving maximum emphasis on the North-Eastern States and on Jammu and Kashmir to bring it back to the main track of tourism.

For that, let me take this opportunity to announce a new circuit for the northeastern region, that is, Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shillong-Tawang. This will be a new circuit. It is being announced today and it will be implemented this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about Orissa?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There are Hirakud, Konark and other places.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken it up. The Minister may say something for his own State.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I have already announced four new circuits for Orissa.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SHILCHAR): Why not Konark ?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: For Konark this year we have provided a crore of rupees for a light and sound programme. I have requested the Ministry of Railways for a new railway line from Puri to Konark, so that people can come from Puri to Konark. He has agreed for the survey and he has issued instructions for the survey work. Once the rail link is there along the side of the sea—Chilka Dolphin is already there—from Chilka to Puri and from Puri to Konark will be a real triangle. Apart from that, a special tourism area is being developed. The State Government has already taken care of it. They are acquiring 3500 acres of land. We are requesting the private sector to invest in that area and that area will be one of the unique attractions and destinations for the international as well as the domestic tourims.

Let me complete with this sentence.

DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): For north-eastern region I have a suggestion to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a specific rule. In this kind of discussion you cannot just rise and ask questions. The Minister may please complete.

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (JALESAR): Hon. Minister, the available resources should be utilised. Whatever happiness in future, it will be taken care of then. The Minister should constitute a committee, hold a meeting and should implement the suggestions received. At present, money may be invested.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not listen to the dialogue. Whatever the Minister has got to say, he may say only that.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The hon. Member will be specially invited to the Consultative Committee attached to my Ministry. Whatever suggestion he wants to make, he can make it there.

Ultimately I must thank all those who have participated in this discussion. I would like to say only one thing. That is, this is the only sector which can bring more revenue, more foreign exchange and give more employment. Keeping that in view, whenever there is a debate, tourism should be given priority; at least in the debate, if not from the finance point of view.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.28. hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 16, 1997/Vaisakha 26, 1919 (Saka).